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Message Text

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63
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 EUR-10 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01

RSR-01 /066 W
---------- 002009
R 031800Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2328
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21157

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LA
SUBJ: LAO AMBASSADOR'S VIEW OF RLG/LPF NEGOTIATIONS

1. LAO AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA INVITED EMBOFF TO CALL AUGUST 2, TWO DAYS AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RETURN FROM LAOS. HE GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE NEGOTIATION SITUATION VERY SIMILAR TO THAT IN RECENT VIENTIANE REPORTING. KHAMPHAN WAS FAR LESS SANGUINE ABOUT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROCESS THAN SOUVANNA PHOUMA, WHO HAD TOLD KHAMPHAN THAT HE EXPECTED TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL ABOUT AUGUST 10. KHAMPHAN SAID THE KING WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GO ALONG WITH THE RLG/LPF SECENARIO: HE WOULD NOT WISH TO ISSUE A ROYAL ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NEW GOVERNMENT UNLESS IT OBTAINED A CONFIDENCE VOTE FROM THE ASSEMBLY--A PROCEDURE WHICH THE LPF WOULD SURELY REJECT. (ACCORDING TO KHAMPHAN, IN 1962 THE KING ACCEPTED THE SPECIAL PROCEDURE, WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE ASSEMBLY APPROVAL, BECAUSE OF THE INTERCONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GENEVA AGREEMENTS.) IN ADDITION, THE KING WOULD OBJECT TO A) THE PRIME MINISTER'S HAVING NO PORTOFLIO AS CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION (WHICH PROHIBITS MINISTERS WITHOUT
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PORFOLIO) AND B) THE NAMING OF TWO DEPUTY PRIME

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MINISTERS (AS IN 1962) WHEN THE CONSTITUTION ALLOWS FOR
ONLY ONE.

2. KHAMPHAN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IMPLYING THAT THE
KING WOULD REJECT THE RLG/LPF PROTOCOL FOR THESE REASONS,
BUT MERELY THAT THE PROCEDUREOF GETTING HIS ACCEPTANCE
MIGHT BE LONGER THAN WAS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED IN VIENTIANE.

3. SINCE KHAMPHAN HAS OFTEN IN THE PAST BEEN PRIVY TO
THE KING'S VIEWS-- OR HAS ACCURATELY GUESSED THEM--HIS
VIEWS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VIENTIANE.
STONE

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